

# TURKEY GUIDE

## 2012

### **Information for:**

Spring and Fall Seasons

Youth Hunting

### **New for 2012:**

Extended fall season



**NEBRASKA**  
— GAME  PARKS —

[OutdoorNebraska.org](http://OutdoorNebraska.org)

# WILD TURKEY IDENTIFICATION (Continued on page 19)

## Size:

The wild turkey is the largest of North America's game birds.



Adult males, known as toms or gobblers, normally weigh between 16 and 24 pounds.



Females, known as hens, are smaller than males and usually weigh between 8 and 10 pounds.

## Feathers:



**Males:** Gobblers have iridescent red, green, copper, bronze and gold feathers. They use these bright colors to great advantage when attracting females during breeding season.

**Females:** Hens have drab, usually brown or gray feathers. They make great camouflage and hide hens when they sit on their nests.

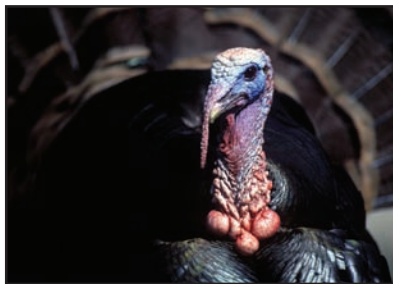
**Color Phases:** A few wild turkeys grow unusually colored feathers. These are known as color phases. There are four color phases, a smokey gray color phase, a melanistic color phase (all black), an erythritic color phase (reddish coloration) and an albino color phase (very rare).

## Head:

**Males:** Males have brightly colored, nearly featherless heads. During breeding season, the color of their heads alternates between red, white and blue, often changing in a few seconds.

**Hens:** A hen's head is gray-blue and has some small feathers for camouflage.

**Caruncles and Snoods:** Both males and females have fleshy growths on their heads known as caruncles. They also both have snoods, fleshy protrubances that hang over their bills and can be extended or contracted at will. The snood of an adult male is usually much larger than that of a female.



(Source: National Wild Turkey Federation)

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## GAME AND PARKS PERMITTING OFFICES

Ak-Sar-Ben Aquarium	21502 W. Neb. Hwy. 31, Gretna	402-332-3901
Alliance district office	299 Husker Rd.	308-763-2940
Bassett service center	524 Panzer St.	402-684-2921
Chadron State Park (SP)	15951 U.S. Hwy. 385	308-432-6167
Fort Robinson SP	3200 U.S. Hwy. 20, Crawford	308-665-2900
Kearney service center	1617 First Ave.	308-865-5310
Lake McConaughy SRA	1475 Neb. Hwy. 61, Ogallala	308-284-8800
Niobrara SP	89261 522 Ave.	402-857-3373
Norfolk district office	2201 N. 13th St.	402-370-3374
North Platte district office	301 E. State Farm Road	308-535-8025
Omaha metro office	1212 Bob Gibson Blvd.	402-595-2144
Ponca SP	88090 Spur 26E	402-755-2284
Lincoln headquarters	2200 N. 33rd St.	402-471-0641
Wildcat Hills SRA	210615 Neb. Hwy. 71, Gering	308-436-3777

## Need a place to Hunt and Fish?

### OPEN FIELDS AND WATERS

More places to hunt and fish.

[www.OutdoorNebraska.org](http://www.OutdoorNebraska.org)

More than 230,000 acres of private land is available for public hunting and fishing through our Open Fields and Waters program.

Take advantage of this new public land to pursue your passion. Look in the Public Access Atlas to locate Open Fields and Waters land near you.



See You Out There

## SEASON DATES

SPRING	
Youth Archery	March 25 – May 31
Archery	March 25 – May 31
Youth Shotgun	April 7 – May 31
Shotgun	April 14 – May 31
FALL (Season extended for 2012)	
Archery and Shotgun	Sept. 15 – Jan. 31, 2013
Youth Archery and Shotgun	Sept. 15 – Jan. 31, 2013

**NOTE: New in 2012 is an expanded fall season, with the closing date moved back one month to Jan. 31, 2013.**

**Spring** – Hunters must use archery equipment March 25-April 13 and may use either archery equipment or a shotgun April 14-May 31. Youth hunters must use archery equipment March 25-April 6 and may use either archery equipment or a shotgun April 7-May 31.

**Fall** – Hunters may use either archery equipment or a shotgun.

## PERMIT TYPES AND PRICES

**Spring turkey** – Valid statewide during the spring turkey season for one male or bearded female turkey per permit.

Resident           \$23 \*

Nonresident       \$90 \*

**Spring youth turkey** – Valid statewide during the spring turkey season for one male or bearded female turkey per permit.

Resident           \$5 \*

Nonresident       \$5 \*

**Spring landowner turkey** – Valid during the spring turkey season for one male or bearded female turkey per permit.

Resident           \$11.50 \*

Nonresident       \$45 \*

**Fall turkey** – Valid statewide during the fall turkey season for two turkeys of either sex per permit.

Resident           \$23 \*

Nonresident       \$90 \*

**Fall youth turkey** – Valid statewide during the fall turkey season for two turkeys of either sex per permit.

Resident	\$5 *
Nonresident	\$5 *

**Fall landowner turkey** – Valid during the fall turkey season for two turkeys of either sex per permit.

Resident	\$11.50 *
Nonresident	\$45 *

**Nebraska Habitat Stamp** – \$20

\* issuing fee not included

**PERMIT LIMIT**

- Spring – three per person per calendar year
- Fall – two per person per calendar year
- Landowner permits – one permit in the spring and one in the fall

**PERMIT RULES**

- Permits must be signed by the permittee.
- It is unlawful to transfer or lend a permit to another person.

**WHO NEEDS A TURKEY PERMIT?**

- Anyone age 16 or older who hunts turkey in Nebraska needs a spring turkey or fall turkey permit.
- Anyone under the age of 16 years who hunts turkey in Nebraska needs a spring youth turkey or fall youth turkey permit. There is no minimum age to hunt turkey in Nebraska.

**WHO MAY OBTAIN A LANDOWNER TURKEY PERMIT?  
(Spring and Fall)**

**Residents:**

- Any resident who owns or leases 80 acres or more of farm or ranch land for agricultural purposes may obtain one landowner permit per season.
- Spouse and children are eligible, but only one permit may be issued per person.
- Eligible family members may hunt together on the same farm or ranch property.
- Siblings sharing ownership of the qualifying land also are eligible.
- The permit is restricted to the land owned or leased by them and listed on the permit.
- The maximum number of landowner permits allowed for one farm or ranch is one for each 80 acres.

## **SNonresidents:**

- Nonresidents who own 320 acres or more of land dedicated to agricultural production may receive a limited spring or fall permit.
- Only one permit may be issued per 320 acres.
- Spouse and children of the landowner also are eligible.

## **WHO NEEDS A NEBRASKA HABITAT STAMP?**

Any resident age 16 or older and all nonresidents who hunt turkey in Nebraska. Only one habitat stamp is needed for all hunting of any species in a calendar year.

## **Exceptions:**

- Residents who hold a veteran fee-exempt or 69-and-older permit do not need to purchase a habitat stamp to hunt turkeys. They must carry the veteran fee-exempt permit or 69-and-older permit while hunting.
- Persons hunting on their own land with a landowner permit do not need a habitat stamp.

## **WHAT IS A RESIDENT?**

A resident is any individual who has lived in Nebraska continuously for 30 days and intends to become a resident of this state. A new resident should be prepared to provide documentation of residency (driver's license, voter registration card, etc.) to an officer when in possession of a resident permit.

## **PURCHASING PERMITS**

### **When?**

- Spring permits – May be purchased beginning on Jan. 9, 2012, at 1 p.m. Central Time through the final day of the season
- Fall permits – May be purchased beginning on Aug. 13, 2012, at 1 p.m. Central Time through the final day of the season

### **How?**

- Visit Game and Parks permitting offices (see page 3)
- Visit [OutdoorNebraska.org](http://OutdoorNebraska.org)
- Complete and mail in application (see page 9-12)

Any program that receives federal funding from the National Park Service, or the United States Fish and Wildlife Service prohibits unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, gender, marital status, national origin, age, disability or political affiliation. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, facility, or service, should contact the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Lincoln, NE 402-471-0641, the Equal Opportunity Commission, Lincoln, NE 402-471-2024, TTY/TDD 402-471-4693; United States Fish Wildlife Service, Civil Rights Coordinator, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203; Director, Equal Opportunity Program, U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, 1849 C Street NW, Mail Code 0008, Washington, D.C. 20240-0001.

# GENERAL TURKEY REGULATIONS

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## BAG LIMIT

Spring – One male or bearded female turkey per permit

Fall – Two turkeys of either sex per permit

## SHOOTING HOURS

### (Spring and Fall)

Shooting hours are 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset. It is unlawful to take or attempt to take any turkey perched in a tree before sunrise.

## HUNTER ORANGE

Spring – Recommended, but not required

Fall – Turkey hunters must wear at least 400 square inches of hunter orange on their head, chest and back when hunting during the November firearm deer season.

## HUNTING METHODS

### (Spring and Fall)

- Archery – Hunters must use archery equipment with arrows that have a sharpened hunting head with a blade of at least 7/16-inch radius, or a blunt (bludgeon) head with a diameter of at least 9/16-inch.  
Legal archery equipment:
  - Longbows
  - Crossbows
  - Recurve bows
  - Compound bows
- Shotgun – Hunters must use a shotgun with shells that contain shot size 2 to 7½ only. Slugs are illegal.

## UNLAWFUL METHODS

Use of the following is unlawful:

- Electronic calls
- Visible laser or light-projecting sights
- Baiting (placing grain or other feed to entice turkeys)
- Live decoys

## HUNTING AREA

Permits are valid statewide, except on state and federal sanctuaries or refuges, unless otherwise authorized.

## **TAGGING**

Immediately after a turkey is taken, the hunter must punch or notch the permit tag showing the date the bird was taken. Punching/notching the permit tag automatically cancels the permit tag. This permit must be kept with the permit holder and/or turkey at all times. When the turkey is not with the permit holder, the entire permit tag must be attached to the turkey.

## **POSSESSION**

It is unlawful for any person other than a successful permit holder to possess any turkey or any portion of it. However, any person may receive as a gift any portion of the turkey, provided a statement of such gift is available for inspection. The statement shall include: the hunter's name, telephone number, permit number, species and quantity of each, signature of donor, name of recipient, and date of transfer.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

If the permit holder does not accompany the turkey during transportation, the cancelled permit must be attached to the carcass of the turkey.

**Spring** – The head, beard or one leg of the turkey must remain naturally attached to the carcass until the turkey is delivered to a commercial processing facility or the hunter's home. Any bearded female turkey harvested in the spring season must have the beard naturally attached.

**Fall** – The head or one leg of a turkey must remain naturally attached to the carcass until the turkey is delivered to a commercial processing facility or the hunter's home.

## **HUNTER SURVEY**

At the end of each season, hunters who provided e-mail addresses at the time they purchased their permits may receive an e-mail survey that is used to determine hunter success and total harvest. Those receiving surveys are asked to reply promptly. It is important when buying permits online that hunters use an updated e-mail address. Survey results are posted at [OutdoorNebraska.org](http://OutdoorNebraska.org).

## **HUNTER EDUCATION**

Hunters age 12 through 29 must have completed firearm hunter education when hunting turkeys with a firearm or crossbow. Bow hunter education is not required for bow and arrow hunting of turkeys.

## **APPRENTICE HUNTER EDUCATION EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE**

An Apprentice Hunter Education Certificate provides a novice hunter between the ages of 12 and 29 an opportunity to try hunting and receive guidance from an experienced hunter before completing Hunter Education. A hunter using this certificate must be accompanied at all times while hunting by a licensed adult age 19 or older. This certificate may be purchased twice – in consecutive years – in a person's lifetime for \$5 each time. The certificate expires on Dec. 31. Applicable hunt permits are required.



NEBRASKA TURKEY APPLICATION

Instruction: Check all applicable boxes and provide information as requested. Submitting incomplete information will result in the return of your application. Make checks payable to Nebraska Game and Parks and enclose the appropriate fee with your application. Mail to: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, PO Box 30370, Lincoln, NE 68503-0370. May be photo copied as needed.

Permit	
<i>Resident</i>	
— Spring turkey . . . . .	\$24
— Youth spring turkey. . . . .	\$6
— Fall turkey . . . . .	\$24
— Youth fall turkey. . . . .	\$6
<i>Nonresident</i>	
— Spring turkey . . . . .	\$91
— Youth spring turkey. . . . .	\$6
— Fall turkey . . . . .	\$91
— Youth fall turkey. . . . .	\$6

All permit prices include a \$1 issuing fee except deployed military permits and Habitat Stamp.

— Habitat Stamp . . . . . \$20



3-digit card verification # on back of card

First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name
<hr/>		
Address		
<hr/>		
City	State	ZIP Code
<hr/>		
Height		Date of Birth
Hair Color	Eye Color	Ft. In. Weight Month Day Year Sex
<hr/>		<hr/>
Daytime Phone Number		Last 4 Digits of Social Security No.
<hr/>		<hr/>
Credit Card # – VISA or MasterCard Only		Card Expiration Date/Verification # see illustration
<hr/>		<hr/>
Archery Education Number – State Certified		Firearm Hunter Education Number – State Certified
<hr/>		<hr/>
Yes No		
<input type="checkbox"/> I certify that I am a RESIDENT of the State of Nebraska as defined by the rules and regulations of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.		
<input type="checkbox"/> I certify that my privilege to hunt, fish or harvest fur is NOT currently revoked in any state, and I am NOT delinquent on any child support payments.		
E-mail address of applicant for permit notification: <hr/>		

Yes No

☐ I certify that I am a RESIDENT of the State of Nebraska as defined by the rules and regulations of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

☐ I certify that my privilege to hunt, fish or harvest fur is NOT currently revoked in any state, and I am NOT delinquent on any child support payments.

The farm or ranch land listed in this application must be used for agricultural purposes.

\*\*\*Check the box below that best certifies your qualifications for a limited landowner permit:

- ☐ I qualify as the owner/leaseholder of the land listed.
- ☐ I qualify as the spouse or child of the owner or leaseholder, or sibling sharing ownership, of the land listed.

**FARM AND RANCH LAND - LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

(If additional room is needed, an attachment form is available) \*\*\*Photocopied applications are acceptable.

**Check one box for each  
parcel listed.**

Quarter	Section	Township	Range	County	Acres	Own	Lease
W 1/2 NW 1/4	16	28N	15E	Cather	80		X

I certify that I am eligible to apply for a landowner permit. All farm and ranch land listed is qualifying property owned and/or leased by me or a member of my immediate household. I, as the qualified applicant, request a landowner permit be issued to me.

Signature Qualified Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address permit notification: \_\_\_\_\_

## LANDOWNER TURKEY APPLICATION

**Instruction:** Separate applications must be submitted for each permit request. Check applicable boxes and provide accurate name, mailing address, personal description, date of birth and the last four (4) digits of applicant's Social Security number. Also provide the legal description of all qualifying property you will be hunting. Submitting incomplete information will result in the return of your application. Make checks payable to Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and enclose the appropriate fee with your application. Mail to: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, P.O. Box 30370, Lincoln, NE 68503-0370.

Permit	
<b>Resident</b>	
— Spring turkey . . . . .	\$12.50
— Fall turkey . . . . .	\$12.50
<b>Nonresident</b>	
— Spring turkey . . . . .	\$46
— Fall turkey . . . . .	\$46

All permit prices include a \$1 issuing fee.



3-digit card  
verification #  
on back of card.

First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name
Mailing Address		
City	State	ZIP Code
	Height	Date of Birth
Hair Color	Eye Color	Ft. In.
		Weight
		Month
		Day
		Year
		Sex
Daytime Phone Number		Last 4 Digits of Social Security #
Credit Card # - VISA or MasterCard Only		Card Expiration Date/Verification # see illustration
		Firearm Hunter Education # - State Certified

NEBRASKA TURKEY APPLICATION

Instruction: Check all applicable boxes and provide information as requested. Submitting incomplete information will result in the return of your application. Make checks payable to Nebraska Game and Parks and enclose the appropriate fee with your application. Mail to: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, PO Box 30370, Lincoln, NE 68503-0370. May be photo copied as needed.

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All permit prices include a \$1 issuing fee except deployed military permits and Habitat Stamp.

— Habitat Stamp . . . . . \$20



3-digit card verification # on back of card

First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name
<hr/>		
Address		
<hr/>		
City	State	ZIP Code
<hr/>		
Height		Date of Birth
Hair Color	Eye Color	Ft. In. Weight Month Day Year Sex
<hr/>		<hr/>
Daytime Phone Number		Last 4 Digits of Social Security No.
<hr/>		<hr/>
Credit Card # – VISA or MasterCard Only		Card Expiration Date/Verification # see illustration
<hr/>		<hr/>
Archery Education Number – State Certified		Firearm Hunter Education Number – State Certified
<hr/>		<hr/>
Yes No		
<input type="checkbox"/> I certify that I am a RESIDENT of the State of Nebraska as defined by the rules and regulations of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.		
<input type="checkbox"/> I certify that my privilege to hunt, fish or harvest fur is NOT currently revoked in any state, and I am NOT delinquent on any child support payments.		
E-mail address of applicant for permit notification: <hr/>		

## **ACCOMPANIMENT**

The following turkey hunters must be accompanied:

- Those under age 12
- Those using an Apprentice Hunter Education Exemption Certificate

The accompanying person must:

- Be a licensed “experienced” hunter age 19 or older.
- Be certified in hunter education if he or she is between the ages of 19 and 29.
- Not accompany more than two holders of an exemption certificate at one time.
- Be at all times in unaided visual and verbal communication with the hunter/hunters he or she is accompanying.

## **WHEN IT IS UNLAWFUL TO HUNT**

It is illegal to hunt:

- when trespassing on private land; get permission.
- as a party hunt; every hunter must shoot his or her own game.
- with a rifle within 200 yards of an inhabited dwelling or feedlot and hunt with all other equipment within 100 yards, unless permission has been granted by the owner or tenant.
- harvest any game birds by baiting or attracting them to the place where hunted by distribution of grain or other feeds.
- drive or disturb game birds or game animals with or from any aircraft or boat propelled by power or sail.
- harvest or trap any game bird from a vehicle.

## **OTHER UNLAWFUL ACTS**

It is unlawful to:

- waste game.
- spotlight from a vehicle or vessel while in possession of a firearm or bow and arrow.
- dig, cut or destroy natural or planted vegetation on any state-owned or controlled area.
- cause game birds or game animals to depart from a game reserve or game sanctuary.
- use electrically amplified imitations of bird calls, including records, tapes, compact discs, and digital audio files, to take game birds.
- sell or trade the meat of any game bird or game animal.
- communicate the location of any game animal or game bird by radio or other electronic device to or from any aircraft, vessel, vehicle, snowmobile, or other conveyance one day before or during the open season.
- carry a firearm, archery equipment or other projectile device on a snowmobile, except when unloaded and in a case.

## **WHEN IT IS UNLAWFUL TO SHOOT**

It is illegal to shoot:

- from any public highway, road or bridge, including the traveled surface and the right-of-way, whether on foot or from a vehicle,
- or attempt to shoot any bird, fish or other animal from an aircraft.

## REGULATIONS AND STATUTES

Sportsmen are responsible for knowing the regulations and statutes (state laws) before hunting or trapping in Nebraska. Failure to do so is not an excuse. This publication is only a guide to those regulations and statutes.

To read them, visit the following links:

Regulations:

<http://www.ngpc.state.ne.us/admin/regulations/regulations.asp>

Statutes:

<http://law.justia.com/nebraska/codes/s37index/s37index.html>

### GAME VIOLATIONS

The Nebraska Legislature has passed statutes that increased the fines and penalties for a variety of game and fish violations. The new fines range from \$25 to \$15,000, depending on the severity of the violation and the species involved. The liquidated damages (assessed in addition to court costs) are set by the legislature as replacement costs for wildlife taken illegally. The damages apply to each animal taken illegally and apply to wanton waste. For a complete overview of the specific fines and penalties, visit [OutdoorNebraska.org](http://OutdoorNebraska.org). Call Nebraska Wildlife Crimestoppers toll-free at 800-742-7627 to report a game violation.

# Who taught you?

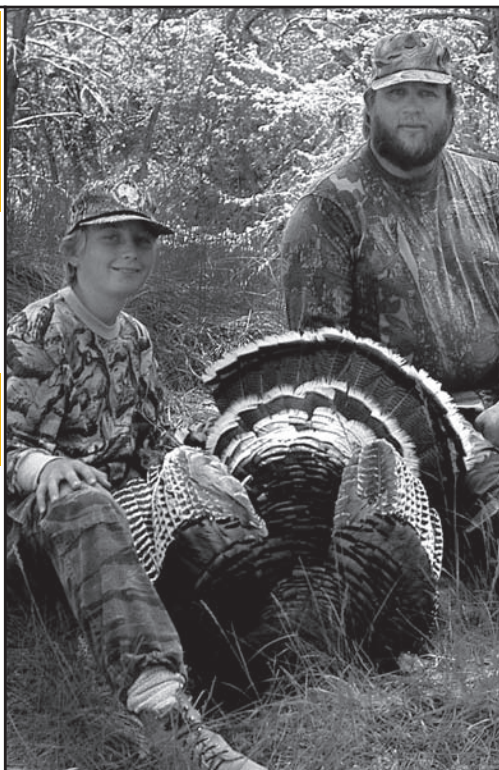
Sometime in the past,  
someone gave you a great gift:  
they taught you how to hunt or fish.

**Repay this gift by  
teaching someone else.**

Replace Yourself.  
The new ethic in hunting and fishing.

**NEBRASKA**  
— GAME  PARKS —

**See You Out There**



# CONSERVATION OFFICERS

---

## ADMINISTRATION

### Lincoln

Craig Stover • 402-471-5532

## NORTHWEST

### Alliance

Jim Zimmerman (S)

308-763-2940

Greg Hesse • 308-760-3647

### Gering

Scott Brandt • 308-631-0663

### Gordon

Heath Packett • 308-360-0682

### Harrison

Dan Kling • 308-430-0572

### Valentine

Frank Miller • 402-389-0444

## NORTHEAST

### Bassett

Dale Davis • 402-760-0712

### Columbus

Steve Oberg • 402-910-3366

### Fremont

Daniel Roberts • 402-719-1108

### Fullerton

Randy Pomplun • 308-550-0489

### Hartington

Jeff Jones • 402-762-5022

### Kennard

Jon Reeves • 402-889-8508

### Norfolk

Tom Zimmer (S) • 402-370-3374

### Neligh

Tim Williams • 402-929-0051

### O'Neill

Patrick George • 402-340-0787

### Ord

Doug Pollard • 308-778-7101

### West Point

Cory Krause • 402-380-6410

## SOUTHWEST

### Broken Bow

Ray Dierking • 308-870-0322

### Cambridge

George Sund • 308-655-0028

### Cozad

Michael Thome • 308-529-8146

### Doniphan

Terry Brentzel • 402-469-5795

### Elwood

Matt Andrews • 308-746-2418

### Imperial

Dirk Greene • 308-882-0015

### Kearney

Jerry Pecha (S) • 308-865-5327

Dale Johnson • 308-440-3847

### North Platte

Roger Thompson (S)

308-535-8025

Dudley Sorensen • 308-530-0016

### Ogallala

Dennis Thompson • 308-289-0755

Nicholas Fix • 308-289-0427

### Republican City

Rich Routh • 308-920-0367

## SOUTHEAST

### Ashland

Sean McKeehan • 402-521-0159

### Auburn

William Krause • 402-274-8063

### Colon

Mike Luben • 402-443-6392

### Cortland

Dan Zuehlke • 402-806-9084

### Gretna

Duane Arp (S) • 402-332-2965

### Hebron

Darin Gress • 402-768-8665

### Lincoln

Douglas Kramer • 402-890-6465

Dina Barta • 402-890-6463

Stacey Lewton • 402-890-7140

### Louisville

Levi Krause • 402-949-0593

### Milford

Robert Finke • 402-947-1363

### Nebraska City

Russell Mort • 402-209-1506

### Papillion

Dan Evasco • 402-616-5961

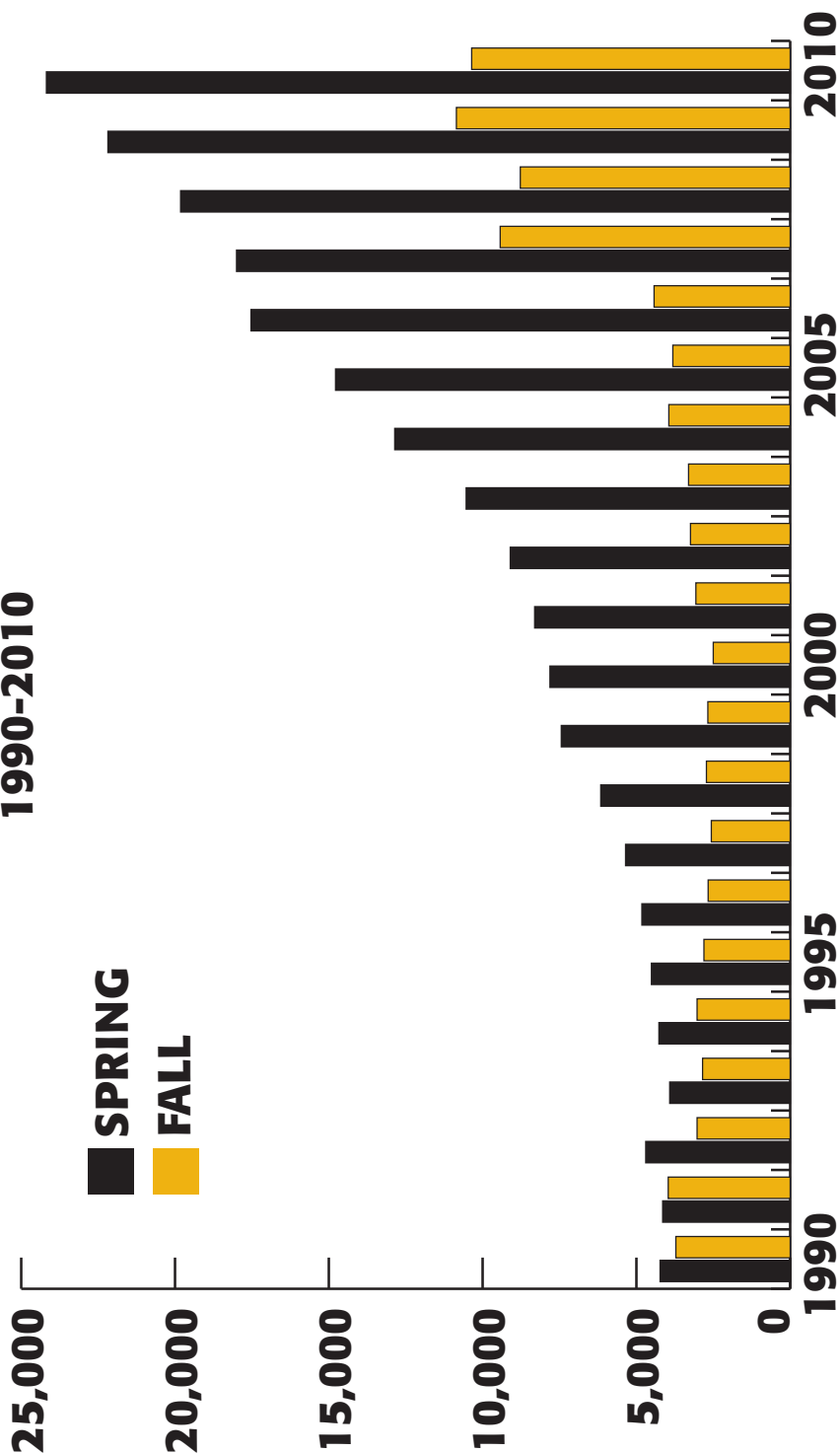
### Valley

Jeff Clauson • 402-658-7057

**(S) Denotes area supervisor**

# SPRING AND FALL TURKEY HARVEST

1990-2010





# TURKEY HUNTING MAP and PUBLIC ACCESS OPTIONS

## Pine Ridge Complex:

The Pine Ridge area has the state's best Merriam's turkey population and plenty of public access. Best access areas: Pine Ridge District of the Nebraska National Forest, Fort Robinson State Park area, Gilbert Baker, Ponderosa, Peterson, Metcalf, Bordeaux and Bighorn WMAs.

## Niobrara River Drainages:

Boyd, Keya Paha and northern Rock and Brown counties have good numbers of birds and public access areas.

## North and South Platte Rivers:

### Rivers:

Both river drainages hold good numbers of birds, and public access is available at WMAs.

## Platte, Elkhorn Rivers and Drainages:

Good numbers of birds can be found along both river valleys.



## Southwest Reservoirs, Republican River Drainages:

Nearly 40,000 acres of public access at Harlan, Medicine Creek, Swanson, Red Willow and Enders reservoirs.

## Central Loess Hills and Loup River System:

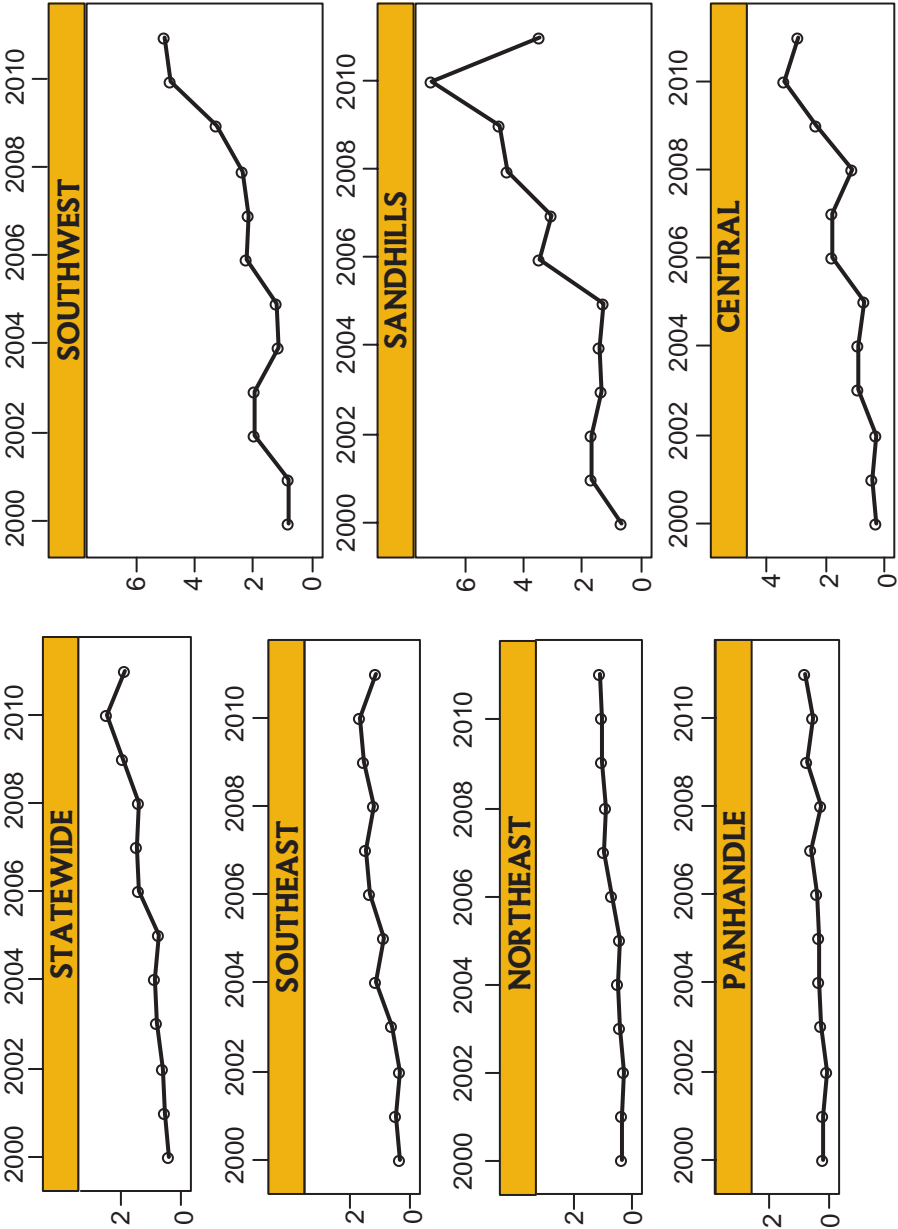
River valleys and crop fields with cedar-filled draws hold many birds.

## Southeast WMAs:

Many WMAs in the southeast hold birds and provide excellent public access.

# Wild Turkey Index (Turkey/100 miles)

Means are weighted by miles traveled per mail carrier.



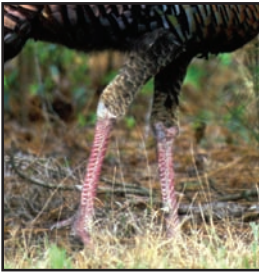
## WILD TURKEY IDENTIFICATION (Continued from page 2)

### Beard:



A male turkey grows a cluster of long, hair-like feathers (beard) from the center of its chest. On adult males, these beards average about 9 inches in length. Ten to 20 percent of hens also grow beards.

### Legs:



Wild turkey legs are reddish-orange. They have four toes on each foot. Male wild turkeys grow large spurs on the backs of their lower legs. These spurs are pointed, bony spikes and are used for defense and to establish dominance. Spurs can grow up to 2 inches in length.



### Tail:

Wild turkey tails are usually 12 to 15 inches long and banded at their tips. The color of the bands in the tail varies by subspecies. Male wild turkeys fan their tails when displaying to attract a mate. All tail feathers of adult males (toms) are the same length. The feathers forming the center of a tail of a juvenile (jake) are usually longer than the rest of the feathers in the tail.

*(Source: National Wild Turkey Federation)*



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